

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Maxine C. Thome et al.

Examiner: John A. Ward

Serial No.: 09/929,827

Group Art Unit: 2875

Filed: August 14, 2001

Docket No.: P147.102.101

Title: LIGHT GUARD

SUPPLEMENTAL AMENDMENTCommissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231**VERSION WITH MARKINGS
TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

Dear Sir/Madam:

This Supplemental Amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed October 1, 2002, pursuant to a telephone interview with the Examiner on January 15, 2002. Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 11, 13 and 14 as follows:

1. A light guard for guarding a light source extending from a light socket fixture mounted on a building mounting surface, the light guard comprising:

a frame including a first half, a second half, and means for removably securing the two frame halves relative to each other, each frame half including a base flange and a body, wherein the body defines latticework of support members and is configured and arranged to extend about the light source and generally parallel to a longitudinal axis of light source, and wherein the body extends directly from the edge of the base flange generally perpendicular relative to the base flange, and wherein the base flange is configured and arranged for disposition between, and in contact against, a light socket fixture and a building mounting surface.

2. The guard of claim 1 wherein the means for removably securing further comprises:
at least one projection disposed on a first edge of the first body half and a hole disposed

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on a first edge of the second body half wherein the projection is configured to slidably engage the hole; and

at least one projection disposed on a second edge of the second body half and a hole disposed on a second edge of the first body half wherein the projection is configured to slidably engage the hole.

3. (Previously Cancelled)

4. The guard of claim 2 wherein the means for removably securing further comprises:
at least one clasp disposed on the first edge of the first body half and configured for slidably engaging a portion of the first edge of the second body half; and
at least one clasp disposed on the second edge of the second body half and configured for slidably engaging a portion of the second edge of the first body half.

5. (Previously Cancelled)

6. The guard of claim 1 wherein the means for removably securing includes a first portion disposed on an edge of the first body half and a second portion disposed on an edge of the second body half wherein the first portion and the second portion comprise at least one or more of a clasp, a pin, a hole, a beveled protrusion, a projection, a hook and loop fastener, a mechanical fastener, and a clip.

7. (Previously Cancelled)

8. The guard of claim 1 wherein the base flange of each frame half has a generally semi-annular shape and includes at least one slot extending radially outward from a generally circular shaped, inner edge of the base flange, the slot being disposed at generally right angle relative to a side edge of the base flange so that when respective side edges of the two frame halves are joined

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together the slot of the first body half and the slot of the second body half are aligned diametrically opposed to each other and aligned generally parallel to each other.

9. The guard of claim 1 wherein each body includes a bottom edge having a generally semi-circular shape so that when the two body halves are joined together, the bottom edge forms a generally circular access hole for accessing a light bulb enclosed by the light guard.

10. The guard of claim 1 wherein the base flange has a generally circular shape with a generally circular-shaped central hole.

11. (Amended) A method of guarding a light source mounted in a light socket fixture comprising:

providing a frame having a first half, a second half, and means for releasably securing the two frame halves relative to each other, with each frame half including a base portion and a body portion with the body portion including a plurality of support members, and

securing the base portion of the frame between a base of a light socket fixture and a building

mounting surface, to be in contact with the building mounting surface, to cause the body portion of the frame, which extends generally perpendicularly relative to the base portion of the frame, to extend in a spaced relationship alongside and about the light source.

12. A method of guarding a light source mounted in a light socket fixture comprising:

removably securing a first base portion of a frame between the light socket fixture and a fixed mounting surface, and to be in contact against both the light fixture and the fixed mounting surface, to cause a first body portion of the frame, which extends generally perpendicularly relative to the base portion of the frame, to extend in a spaced relationship generally parallel to and about the light source;

removably securing a second base portion of the frame between the light socket fixture

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and the fixed mounting surface, to be in contact against both the light fixture and the fixed mounting surface, to cause a second body portion of the frame, which extends generally perpendicularly relative to the second base portion of the frame, to extend in a spaced relationship generally parallel to and about the light source; and

removably securing the first body portion relative to the second body portion to protectively enclose the light source within the frame.

13. (Amended) A method of installing a light guard, the method comprising:

providing a light fixture in a secured position against a fixed mounting surface with the fixed mounting surface including at least one of a wall surface, a ceiling surface, and a electrical junction box; and

providing a light guard having first a half, a second half, and means for releasably securing the first half relative to the second half, with each frame half including a base flange and a body;

sandwiching thea-base flange of ~~the~~ the light guard halves between the light fixture and the fixed mounting surface to position the a body of the light guard halves, that extends generally perpendicular outward from the base flange, to extend a spaced relationship about a light source mounted in the light fixture; and

releasably securing the first guard half to the second guard half.

14. (Amended) The method of claim 13 wherein sandwiching the base flange further comprises:

loosening the light fixture relative to the fixed mounting surface;

inserting the base flange of the light guard halves between the light fixture and the fixed mounting surface; and

tightening the light fixture against the base flange of the light guard and the fixed mounting surface.

15. A light guard comprising:

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a base portion having a generally circular shape that defines a central hole and including a plurality of slots configured and positioned to receive a fastener in each slot, with the fastener being independent from the light guard, and to direct the fastener through a light fixture and the slot for securing the light fixture against the base portion; and

a body portion extending generally perpendicular outward from the base portion in a generally cylindrical shape and defining a latticework of support members.

wherein the base portion and the body portion are comprised of two halves configured substantially the same as each other and including a releasably securing mechanism mountable on at least one of the two halves for releasably securing the two halves together.

16. (Previously Cancelled)

17. (Previously Cancelled)

18. A light guard comprising:

a base portion having a generally annular shape that defines a central hole with the central hole being sized and configured for securing the base portion directly against a building mounting surface independent of a base of a light fixture with a diameter of the central hole being greater than a diameter of the base of the light fixture; and

a body portion extending generally perpendicular outward from the base in a generally cylindrical shape and defining a latticework of support members.

19. The light guard of claim 18 wherein the base portion comprises at least one of the following fastening mechanisms for securing the base portion against the mounting surface, including:

a plurality of holes, a hook and loop fastener, a pressure sensitive adhesive, a glue and a wall anchor.

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20. A light guard comprising:

a base portion having a generally annular shape that defines a central hole and an outer generally circular edge, with the base portion configured and arranged for disposition between, and in contact against, a light socket fixture and a building mounting surface;

a body portion having a generally cylindrical shape and defining a latticework of support members, and extending generally perpendicular outward from the base portion directly from the outer generally circular edge; and

a living hinge connecting a first half and a second half of the light guard to permit the first half and the second half to be moved between an open position for access to an interior of the body portion and a closed position for preventing access to an interior of the body portion.

21. The method of claim 14, wherein providing a light fixture in a secured position comprises:

providing a pair of holes that extend through the light fixture;

extending a fastener through each hole of the light fixture and securing each fastener into the fixed mounting surface to secure the light fixture against the fixed mounting surface.

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and the fixed mounting surface, to be in contact against both the light fixture and the fixed mounting surface, to cause a second body portion of the frame, which extends generally perpendicularly relative to the second base portion of the frame, to extend in a spaced relationship generally parallel to and about the light source; and

removably securing the first body portion relative to the second body portion to protectively enclose the light source within the frame.

13. (Amended) A method of installing a light guard, the method comprising:

providing a light fixture in a secured position against a fixed mounting surface with the fixed mounting surface including at least one of a wall surface, a ceiling surface, and an electrical junction box;

providing a light guard having first a half, a second half, and means for releasably securing the first half relative to the second half, with each frame half including a base flange and a body;

sandwiching the base flange of the light guard halves between the light fixture and the fixed mounting surface to position the body of the light guard halves, that extend generally perpendicular outward from the base flange, to extend in a spaced relationship about a light source mounted in the light fixture; and

releasably securing the first guard half to the second guard half.

14. (Amended) The method of claim 13 wherein sandwiching the base flange further comprises:

loosening the light fixture relative to the fixed mounting surface;

inserting the base flange of the light guard halves between the light fixture and the fixed mounting surface; and

tightening the light fixture against the base flange of the light guard and the fixed mounting surface.

15. A light guard comprising:

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a base portion having a generally circular shape that defines a central hole and including a plurality of slots configured and positioned to receive a fastener in each slot, with the fastener being independent from the light guard, and to direct the fastener through a light fixture and the slot for securing the light fixture against the base portion; and

a body portion extending generally perpendicular outward from the base portion in a generally cylindrical shape and defining a latticework of support members.

wherein the base portion and the body portion are comprised of two halves configured substantially the same as each other and including a releasably securing mechanism mountable on at least one of the two halves for releasably securing the two halves together.

16. (Previously Cancelled)

17. (Previously Cancelled)

18. A light guard comprising:

a base portion having a generally annular shape that defines a central hole with the central hole being sized and configured for securing the base portion directly against a building mounting surface independent of a base of a light fixture with a diameter of the central hole being greater than a diameter of the base of the light fixture; and

a body portion extending generally perpendicular outward from the base in a generally cylindrical shape and defining a latticework of support members.

19. The light guard of claim 18 wherein the base portion comprises at least one of the following fastening mechanisms for securing the base portion against the mounting surface, including:

a plurality of holes, a hook and loop fastener, a pressure sensitive adhesive, a glue and a wall anchor.

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20. A light guard comprising:

a base portion having a generally annular shape that defines a central hole and an outer generally circular edge, with the base portion configured and arranged for disposition between, and in contact against, a light socket fixture and a building mounting surface;

a body portion having a generally cylindrical shape and defining a latticework of support members, and extending generally perpendicular outward from the base portion directly from the outer generally circular edge; and

a living hinge connecting a first half and a second half of the light guard to permit the first half and the second half to be moved between an open position for access to an interior of the body portion and a closed position for preventing access to an interior of the body portion.

21. The method of claim 14, wherein providing a light fixture in a secured position comprises:

providing a pair of holes that extend through the light fixture;

extending a fastener through each hole of the light fixture and securing each fastener into the fixed mounting surface to secure the light fixture against the fixed mounting surface.

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REMARKS

Pursuant to a telephone interview with Examiner John Ward on January 15, 2003, Applicants' submit amended claims 11 and 13-14. Based on the interview, these claims are believed to be allowable over all references of record.

Allowable Subject Matter

In light of the above, Applicant believes independent claims 1, 11-13, 15, 18 and 20 and the claims depending therefrom, are in condition for allowance. Allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all claims are now in a condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

No fees are required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16(b)(c). However, if such fees are required, the Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 500471.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and/or the claims by the current Amendment. The attached pages are captioned "**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**".